

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appln. No. 09/777,681

A *B*
Figure 1C is a schematic showing a third embodiment of the fluorescence imaging apparatus of the invention.

Page 14, paragraph bridging page 15, delete and insert the following:

B6 B7a
A2
B
Firstly, an endoscope system, in which a first embodiment of the fluorescence imaging apparatus in accordance with the present invention is employed, will be described hereinbelow with reference to Figure 1A to Figure 5. Figure 1A is a schematic view showing the endoscope system, in which the first embodiment of the fluorescence imaging apparatus in accordance with the present invention is employed. In the endoscope system, in which the first embodiment of the fluorescence imaging apparatus in accordance with the present invention is employed, excitation light is irradiated to a measuring site in a living body, the excitation light causing the measuring site to produce fluorescence. The fluorescence produced from the measuring site is detected by a CCD image sensor, which is located at a leading end of an endoscope. The thus detected fluorescence image is displayed on a monitor and as a pseudo color image in accordance with a ratio between signal intensities of fluorescence components of the fluorescence, which fluorescence components have wavelengths falling within predetermined wavelength regions. When signal charges having been accumulated in the CCD image sensor, are to be read from the CCD image sensor, signal charges, which have been accumulated in pixels falling within a non-imaging region other than a fluorescence imaging region, are read with a quick reading operation, wherein the signal charges are read at a reading speed higher than the reading speed at which the signal charges having been accumulated in pixels falling within the fluorescence imaging region are read.